

North Carolina Growing Rapidly and Becoming More Diverse

Substate Statistics from the
Census 2000 Redistricting Data
Released on March 21, 2001

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Highlights

- On average there are 29.1 more persons per square mile in North Carolina now than ten years ago.
- A smaller fraction of North Carolinians identify themselves as multiracial than the fraction nationwide.
- The racial composition of the state as a whole remains very similar to the 1990 makeup.
- The Hispanic population is increasing dramatically, especially in some localities. Approximately one out of every twenty-one people in the state is of Hispanic origin. For nine municipalities in North Carolina, Hispanics number more than one in five residents. While the Hispanic proportion of the state is approximately one third that of the nation, the Hispanic population in North Carolina grew between six and seven times faster than the nation since 1990.
- While some counties grew at the remarkable rate of around 50 percent, a few actually lost population during the last decade.

Reapportionment Data

With an April 1, 2000, resident population count of 8,049,313, North Carolina became the eleventh most populous state. The total population figures were released for all states in December 2000 for purposes of reapportionment. The state had 1,420,676 more residents in 2000 than in 1990, using the uncorrected 1990 count of 6,628,637. Only five other states experienced a larger absolute increase and only eight other states a larger percentage increase.

Redistricting Data

New redistricting data released on March 21, 2001, provide the first substate counts from the 2000 census. Data were released for total population, race, and Latino or Hispanic origin for each county, township, municipality, voting district, census tract, block group, block, congressional district, and state legislative district in North Carolina. Figures for the population over age eighteen in each of these data categories were also made available.

Population Density Changes

On average, each square mile of North Carolina contained 29.1 more persons in 2000 than ten years earlier and 44.5 more persons than twenty years earlier. The population density for 2000 was 165.2 persons per square mile of land area.

Racial Changes

Comparing 1990 and 2000 census figures about race is difficult because of new data on race collected in 2000. For the first time ever, respondents could identify themselves as belonging to more than one race. The Census Bureau made this change to the question on race for Census 2000 to address the nation's growing diversity.

In tabulating race from Census 2000, the Census Bureau used two categories: 1) "race alone" for those who identified themselves as belonging to only one race and 2) "race in combination" for those who responded that they belong to more than one race. In reporting data about race, the Census Bureau refers to the sum of the two categories as "race alone or in combination." This sum of the two categories exceeds 100 percent of the population because those who identified themselves on the census questionnaire as belonging to two or more races get tallied multiple times, once for each race they specified.

In the 2000 census, 1.3 percent of all North Carolinians responded that they belonged to more than one race. Nationally, 2.4 percent of the population identified themselves as multiracial.

If the count includes only those respondents indicating a single race, then North Carolina is 21.6 percent Black or African American. If the count includes those who responded that they belonged to the Black or African American race (alone or in combination with another race), then the state is 22.1 percent Black or African American. These figures represent a change of between -0.4 and +0.1 percentage points since 1990. In that census, respondents could mark only a single choice for race, and 22.0 percent marked Black or African American.

The state is 1.2 percent American Indian and Alaska Native based on Census 2000 respondents indicating that single race. If the count encompasses those who indicated belonging to the American Indian and Alaska Native race (alone or in combination with another race), then North Carolina is 1.6 percent American Indian and Alaska Native. These data show a change of between 0.0 and +0.4 percentage points since 1990.

Similarly, North Carolina is 1.4 percent Asian according to the responses of those who indicated they belonged to a single race on the Census 2000 questionnaire. Counting those who replied they identified with the Asian race (alone or in combination with another race), the state is 1.7 percent Asian. These statistics reveal a change of from +0.6 to +0.9 percentage points since the 1990 census, when 0.8 percent of respondents marked Asian as their race.

North Carolina is 0.05 percent Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander according to Census 2000 respondents who marked that they belonged to that single race. For those who

said they belonged to the Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander race (alone or in combination with another race), the state is 0.1 percent Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander. These figures indicate a change of between +0.02 and +0.05 percentage points from a decade ago.

Hispanic or Latino Origin

Approximately one in twenty-one people in North Carolina is of Hispanic origin. The state experienced a significant growth in Hispanics between 1990 and 2000, from 76,726 (1.2 percent) in 1990 to 378,963 in 2000 (4.7 percent), a 393.9 percent increase.

Nationally, the 2000 census reveals that Hispanics make up about 13.0 percent of the total population. Between 1990 and 2000, the nation experienced an increase of approximately 58.0 percent in the number of Hispanics.

Federal agencies consider race and ethnicity as two separate and distinct concepts. Thus, in addition to asking about race, the Census 2000 questionnaire included a question giving respondents two choices for indicating their ethnicity: 1) Hispanic or Latino and 2) Not Hispanic or Latino.

In listing these two classifications, the Census Bureau adhered to the new standards for federal data on race and ethnicity issued by the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) in October 1997. The standards define Hispanic or Latino as “a person of Cuban, Mexican, Puerto Rican, South or Central American, or other Spanish culture or origin regardless of race.” The phrase “Hispanic or Latino Origin” replaces the phrase “Hispanic Origin,” which was used in tabulating censuses prior to 2000.

Changes in Age

Comparing those under eighteen with the population eighteen and older, North Carolina does not show a significant change in the proportions of these two groups since 1990. However, between 1980 and 1990 the younger population was decreasing as a percentage of the total. In 1980, 28.2 percent of the population was under eighteen, in 1990 24.2 percent, and in 2000 24.4 percent.

Hispanics were more likely than non-Hispanics to be less than eighteen years old. In 2000, 31.7 percent of Hispanics were less than eighteen years of age, compared with 24.0 percent of non-Hispanics and 24.4 percent of the state’s total population. Similarly, each racial group (Black or African American, American Indian and Alaska Native, Asian, Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander, and Some Other Race) had a larger percentage of their total in the age group under eighteen years than did the White race. For each racial group, of those individuals who specified only one race, 22.0 percent of Whites were under age eighteen, as were 29.9 percent of Blacks or African Americans, 30.2 percent of American Indians and Alaska Natives, 27.3 percent of Asians, 27.1 percent of Native Hawaiians and Pacific Islanders, and 32.0 percent of other races.

County Population Change

Population wise, the five largest counties in North Carolina in 2000 were Mecklenburg with 695,454 individuals, Wake with 627,846, Guilford with 421,048, Forsyth with 306,067, and Cumberland with 302,963. The five most densely populated counties, measured in persons per square mile of land area, were Mecklenburg (1,321.5 persons per square mile), New Hanover (805.8), Durham (769.2), Wake (754.7), and Forsyth (747.2).

The five fastest growing counties were Johnston (50.0 percent growth between 1990 and 2000), Wake (48.3 percent), Hoke (47.2 percent), Union (46.9 percent), and Brunswick (43.5 percent).

Some counties experienced a decrease in population. They were Bertie with -3.0 percent change, Washington with -2.0 percent, and Edgecombe with -1.7 percent.

Remembering that there are two ways to compare racial data between 1990 and 2000, the following findings for counties use only those responses indicating a single race for the 2000 data. Counties with the highest percentage White were Clay and Yancey (each with 98 percent), Mitchell (97.9 percent), Madison (97.6 percent), Ashe and Macon (each with 97.2 percent), and Haywood (96.8 percent). Those with the highest percent Black or African American were Bertie (62.3 percent), Hertford (59.6 percent), Northampton (59.4 percent), Edgecombe (57.5 percent), and Warren (54.5 percent). For American Indian and Alaska Native the top counties percentage wise were Robeson (38.0 percent), Swain (29.0 percent), Hoke (11.4 percent), Jackson (10.2 percent), and Scotland (8.9 percent). For Asian the leaders were Orange (4.1 percent), Burke (3.5 percent), Wake (3.4 percent), Durham (3.3 percent), and Mecklenburg (3.1 percent). For Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander the top counties were Cumberland (0.30 percent), Burke (0.21 percent), Onslow (0.19 percent), Hoke (0.15 percent), and Sampson (0.09 percent).

Counties with the highest percentage Hispanic or Latino origin were Duplin (15.1 percent), Lee (11.7 percent), Sampson (10.8 percent), Montgomery (10.4 percent), Chatham (9.6 percent), Greene (8.0 percent), Johnston (7.7 percent), Durham (7.6 percent), Onslow (7.2 percent), and Hoke (7.2 percent). Cabarrus County experienced the most significant surge in Hispanics with a 1,270.6 percent increase between 1990 and 2000, followed by Terrell with 1,263.6 percent, Alamance with 1,100.4 percent, Randolph with 1,077.9 percent, Union with 1,031.4 percent, and Hoke with 1,007.8 percent.

Municipal Population Change

The largest municipalities were Charlotte with 540,828 residents, Raleigh with 276,093, Greensboro with 223,891, Durham with 187,035, Winston-Salem with 185,776, and Fayetteville with 121,015. Among the top twenty largest municipalities, the fastest growing were Jacksonville at 122.3 percent, Cary at 115.6 percent, Concord at 104.7 percent, and Fayetteville at 59.9 percent. For municipalities of all sizes, the fastest growing included Holly Springs at 912.3 percent, Red Oak at 872.5 percent, and Huntersville at 728.1 percent. Of course, with municipalities, annexation may account for some of the growth.

Some municipalities demonstrate a remarkable concentration of Hispanics. Those with more than one Hispanic out of every five residents are Robbins with 48.4 percent, Siler City with 39.3 percent, Candor with 27.0 percent, Dobson with 25.8 percent, Magnolia with 25.1 percent, Faison with 24.7 percent, Biscoe with 23.2 percent, Monroe with 21.4 percent, and Rennert with 21.2 percent.

Future Census Data Releases

The next major release of census data for North Carolina is expected in the summer of 2001. It will present census tabulations of responses to questions asked of all households. Data will include age, race, sex, household relationship, and living arrangements and will be presented for geographic areas down to the individual census block.

Additional Information

The Web site for the U.S. Bureau of the Census, www.census.gov, contains much information on census programs and products, including American FactFinder, the access point in the federal government for census data. Users may locate American FactFinder directly at <http://factfinder.census.gov/servlet/BasicFactsServlet>. Researchers interested in complete state redistricting data may download these very large files from the following site: http://www2.census.gov/census_2000/datasets/redistricting_file--pl_94-171/North_Carolina/. To view and print Census 2000 block maps, voting district maps, and tract maps to accompany the redistricting data release, go to <http://ftp2.census.gov/plmap/>.

The North Carolina State Data Center (SDC) in the Office of State Budget, Planning, and Management provides access to and interpretation of census information through its network of forty state and local participating agencies. It enhances the data released by the Census Bureau by extracting North Carolina specific information and presenting tables and graphics unavailable on American FactFinder. Users may access the census information from the North Carolina SDC at census.state.nc.us. To address questions to North Carolina local affiliates, use the affiliate locator at http://sdc.state.nc.us/frame_start_contacts.html.

The State Demographer makes available tables and analyses of population trends using corrected 1990 counts at <http://www.ospl.state.nc.us/demog/>.

To submit complaints about the count for Census 2000, contact the U.S. Bureau of the Census in writing. The *Federal Register* outlines guidelines for this process at the following site: http://frwebgate.access.gpo.gov/cgi-bin/getdoc.cgi?dbname=2001_register&docid=01-1564-filed. Please note that written comments must be submitted prior to or on March 23, 2001.